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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Ewell's Elementary Law.* By Marshall D. Ewell. Published by Matthew Bender & Company, Albany, N. Y. 1915. pp. 1053.

This is a second edition of a book which appeared in 1883 and which has been very widely used by young men preparing for bar examinations and as a general text-book on Elementary Law in some of the law schools where the case method of study has not been adopted. The book in hand treats the subjects of Agency, Contracts, Corporations, Equity, Evidence, Negotiable Instruments, Partnership, Common Law Pleading, and Torts. It is a great deal more comprehensive than its predecessor and is distinctly better. In the preparation of the book the relative importance of different passages in the text has been displayed by the use of different sizes of type. This is a very useful mechanical device in that it gives the student the benefit of an experienced scholar's opinion as to what is most important and shows him where to concentrate in his study. The style of the author is characterized by clearness and conciseness and his book probably contains as good a statement of that part of the law which it covers as can be found anywhere in the same number of pages. Any book of this kind must of necessity be very general; in fact, so general as to be of little use except as a mere preparation for the bar examination. The reviewer has no doubt that a close study of Professor Ewell's book would enable one to get by the bar examinations in a good many states but he deplores any scheme for the study of law which makes as its prime object the passing of the bar examination rather than the acquiring of that legal habit of mind which a proper method of study, sufficiently prolonged, would assure and which would abide and be useful in practice when the abstract principles and norms have faded from memory.

*Equity and Its Remedies.* By Charles Neal Barney. Published by G. A. Jackson, Boston. 1915. pp. xxxiii and 252.

The purpose of this book is to put in an accessible form the bare principles of equity and to show the scope of equitable remedies. No attempt has been made to enter upon a discussion of the reasons for the various rules nor to cite all cases in point.

The citations are largely drawn from Massachusetts cases but the subject is dealt with in such a way as to make the book valuable as a source of reference in any part of the United States. For a quick method of "brushing up" on the subject the book should prove of great value but it does not pretend to treat of the matter in the extensive and scholarly manner of Pomeroy. However, it is the author's purpose to produce simply a book of rules for the use of the busy practitioner and in this he has succeeded admirably.

*A Sketch of English Legal History.* By Frederic W. Maitland and Francis C. Montague. Edited by James F. Colby. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. 1915. pp. 229.

This book is a reprint of a series of articles which appeared in "Social England." Its purpose is to furnish a brief but comprehensive, accurate but untechnical account of the origin and growth of English law. The book is of value to Americans only as giving an historical account of that system of law from which our system is largely derived, but being written in an untechnical and interesting fashion it should be largely read by students of English law. To all such we heartily commend it.

*Ethics in Service.* By William Howard Taft, New Haven. Yale University Press. 1915. pp. 101.

This book consists of the addresses delivered in the Page Lecture Series, 1914, by Professor Taft before the senior class of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University. The first two chapters are given over to a discussion of the ethics and ideals of the legal profession. There is there set forth a short history of the profession, showing that though lawyers have ever received the condemnation of their fellow citizens, yet the profession has ever been in the lead in the progress of society and has contributed very many illustrious names to the pages of history. This section also contains an outline and discussion of the system of legal ethics as advocated and practiced to-day. The third chapter contains a discussion of the Executive Power which is even more interesting for the inclusion of several incidents in which the author took part. The last two chapters deal with "The Signs of the Times" in which the author discusses such